His Majeſties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH
To both Houſes of
PARLIAMENT,
On *Friday* the Sixteenth Day of *April*, 1697.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAving Given my Aſſent to the ſeveral Bills you have Preſented to Me, I am now to Return you My hearty Thanks for what you have done this Seſſion, which has been Carry'd on with great Prudence, Temper and Affection.

At the Opening of the Seſſion, I told you how Senſible I was of the Difficulties to be Struggl'd with, which were of ſuch a Nature, that I will freely own the Hopes I had of Our being Able to overcome them were Founded only upon the Wiſdom and Zeal of ſo good a *Parliament.*

My Expectation has been fully Anſwer'd; You Entred upon the Buſineſs with ſo much Chearfulneſs, Proceeded ſo Unanimouſly, and have at laſt brought things to ſuch a Concluſion, That we may Hope to Carry on the War with Succeſs, in Caſe Our Enemies do not think it their Intereſt to Agree to an Honourable Peace: And ſo Effectual a Proviſion being made for ſupplying the Deficiencies of former Funds (which is the beſt Foundation for Reeſtabliſhing of Credit) I Doubt not but in a ſhort time it will have a very Happy Effect, to the univerſal Eaſe and Satisfaction of My People.

The Circumſtances of Affairs making it neceſſary for Me to be out of the Kingdom for ſome time, I ſhall take care to leave the Adminiſtration of the Government, during My Abſence, in the Hands of ſuch Perſons as I can Depend upon.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing more to Ask of you, but that you would carry down the ſame good Diſpoſition into your ſeveral Countries which you have expreſſed in all the Proceedings of this Sſſieon.

And then the Lord Keeper, by His Majeſties Command, ſaid,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majeſties pleaſure, That this preſent Parliament ſhall be Prorogued to *Thurſday* the Thirteenth day of *May* next; and this Parliament is Prorogued accordingly to *Thurſday* the Thirteenth day of *May* next.

FINIS.

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